

XX. *Dissertatio Inauguralis de Dentitione Infantali, cum Adjuncta Disquisitione de Spasmis et Antispasmodicis, quam pro Summis in Arte Medica Honoribus rite Obtinendis Publice Defendere Studebit.* Auctor FREDERICUS ADOLPHUS ULDALL, Medicinæ Licentiatus, Chirurgiæ Candidatus. Hauniæ, MDCCCXXXIII. 8vo. pp. 93.

An Inaugural Dissertation on Infantile Dentition, to which is annexed a Disquisition on Spasm and Antispasmodics. By F. A. ULDALL. Copenhagen, November, 1833.

This is a well-digested and highly interesting treatise on difficult dentition, and the various morbid phenomena to which it so frequently gives rise. The pathological views of the author, being based upon the observations of the most authoritative writers of the present day, are in general correct, while the preventive and curative measures which he lays down, are extremely judicious.

By most of the older writers on the diseases of infancy, the nature and production of these morbid phenomena, which are so apt to occur immediately preceding, or during the period of dentition, were but imperfectly understood, and hence the plan of treatment which they recommend for their removal, is either empirical, or, in too many instances, decidedly improper.

More correct views of the physiology of the different organs of the body, their condition at that period of life when the teeth are about to pierce the gums, and the reciprocal influence which one organ exerts over another during its normal state, or when labouring under any undue irritation, have thrown no inconsiderable light upon the diseases incident to dentition, and has directed the physician to more rational and certain means for their prevention and removal.

It is unquestionably true, that in many instances the production of disease is erroneously ascribed to dentition. It would, however, be going too far, were we to deny the facility and frequency with which, under particular circumstances, the irritation induced in the gums by the evolution of the teeth, is propagated to the digestive mucous membrane, or the brain, and in this manner becomes the cause of very serious mischief. Under all circumstances, it is perhaps true, that during the period of dentition, the digestive canal and brain are predisposed to disease, which is then readily excited to a most formidable extent by apparently trifling causes.

Although the diseases occurring at this period are to be treated on the same general principles precisely, as when they show themselves prior or subsequent to dentition, yet the circumstance of their direct or remote dependance upon the latter, will point out the importance, at the same time, of abating or removing the morbid irritation existing in the gums, either by free incisions over the protruding tooth, or by leeches. This simple measure early resorted to, has in numerous cases arrested almost immediately the most violent symptoms, by which the life of the little patient appeared to be threatened with speedy extinction.

These general facts in relation to the subject are placed in their proper light, and duly enforced in the dissertation before us, the author of which, while he can, in truth, claim but little for the novelty of his views, deserves great credit

for the industry he has displayed in collecting the opinions of the most eminent writers who have treated upon dentition and the accidents by which it is accompanied, and for the general accuracy of his pathological and therapeutical deductions.

D. F. C.

XXI. *Dissertatio de Effectibus Jodii in Organismum Humanum Usuque ejus Medico, quam Scripsit et pro Licentia Summos in Arte Medica honores postea capessendi publico Eruditorum examini modeste submittit.* FREDERICUS ADOLPHUS ULDALL, Chirurgiae et Medicinae candidatus. Hauniæ, MDCCCXXXIII. 8vo. pp. 78.

A Dissertation on the Effects of Iodine upon the Human Organism, and its Use as a Medicine. By F. A. ULDALL. Copenhagen, February, 1833.

In this dissertation the author has collected, with considerable care, the various facts recorded by the leading physicians of Europe, in illustration of the effects of iodine upon the human organism in health and disease; or, perhaps, to speak more correctly, he has presented a useful synopsis of the general conclusions to which these facts are presumed to lead.

As has been almost invariably the case upon the introduction of a new remedy, those by whom the iodine was first employed and recommended, anticipated from the article curative powers in various diseases, far greater than subsequent experience has shown it actually to possess. The iodine is, nevertheless, unquestionably in many cases an invaluable addition to our other remedial agents, and it has been, we suspect, employed by the physicians of this country in its various combinations, much less frequently than the important indications which it is calculated to fulfil would seem to demand. It is a remedy, however, which is not alike applicable to every form and stage of even those diseases, in which it is most celebrated. In its administration, it is essential that we should keep constantly in mind its peculiar mode of operation—in other words, its immediate and remote effects upon the different organs and tissues of the body. It is in this manner alone, that we can determine what are the particular morbid conditions under which it can be resorted to with the most certain anticipation of deriving from it all its beneficial effects, and what are the circumstances which absolutely forbid its use, or render it of doubtful propriety. The same may, it is true, be said of every remedial agent, but it is more particularly applicable to one possessed of properties equal in activity with those of iodine.

Although the treatise before us may be referred to as presenting a tolerably full exposition of the present state of our knowledge in relation to the properties of iodine, and its principal combinations, and their effects in the removal of disease, it contains, at the same time, but little that is not to be found in any of the more recent treatises on the *materia medica*.

The diseases in which the author conceives that the iodine has been found to exhibit the most beneficial effects are, the various forms of scrofula, scirrhus, indolent enlargements of the joints, ranula, various indurations of the viscera, certain forms of dropsy, especially ovarian dropsy, hypertrophy of the heart and mamma, strictures of the urethra, and obstructions of the Eustachian tubes.